



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

May 1, 2015

Yesterday marked the end of two very busy weeks of scurrying to move bills through committees and get floor votes before the April 30 Crossover Deadline. All told, there were about 80 education-related bills that made crossover, and another 40+ that were not subject to the deadline; totally a grand 120 estimated bills for those following K-12 public education. A listing of the education bills that made crossover this week is below. Bills that made crossover before this week are noted in the previous Legislative Update.

### **Bills that made Crossover (this week only):**

1. [HB 56](#) State Health Plan/Rehired Retiree Eligibility
2. [HB 238](#) Duty-Free Time/Lunch for Teachers
3. [HB 248](#) Eliminate NC Final Exam
4. [HB 355](#) Evidence Passed Vehicle is a School Bus
5. [HB 407](#) Foster Care Family Act
6. [HB 495](#) OSHR Modernization/Technical
7. [HB 581](#) Computer Coding Course Elective
8. [HB 587](#) School Flexibility Act
9. [HB 631](#) Notice Before Automatic Contract Renewal
10. [HB 660](#) Transition to Personalized Digital Learning
11. [HB 661](#) Teacher Recruitment and Scholarships
12. [HB 669](#) Juvenile Law Changes/Abuse/Neglect/Dependency
13. [HB 673](#) Modify Read to Achieve
14. [HB 687](#) Public Schools/Testing Schedule
15. [HB 754](#) Community College Remediation Pilot Project
16. [HB 779](#) IT Procurement/Promote Competition
17. [HB 792](#) Privacy/Protection from Revenge Postings
18. [HB 794](#) Protections from Online Impersonation
19. [HB 803](#) School Performance Scores
20. [HB 812](#) Grant Recipients Posted on Grantor Web Site
21. [HB 847](#) Parental Rights and Medical Treatment of Minors
22. [HB 902](#) Transforming Principal Preparation
23. [SB 95](#) Performance-Based RIF/School Policy
24. [SB 97](#) State Advisory Council on Indian Education
25. [SB 127](#) Personal Services Contracts/PED
26. [SB 211](#) Penalty for Late Payment of Monies/Charters
27. [SB 330](#) Change Orders on School Construction Projects
28. [SB 333](#) Teacher Attrition Data
29. [SB 343](#) Student Assault on Teacher/Felony Offense
30. [SB 400](#) Encourage Access to Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts
31. [SB 419](#) Limit Revolving Door Employment
32. [SB 456](#) Charter School Modifications
33. [SB 480](#) Uniform Political Activity/Employees
34. [SB 503](#) Sex Offense with Student/Charter Schools
35. [SB 519](#) Amend Child Custody Laws
36. [SB 524](#) Founding Principles/Graduation Requirement
37. [SB 534](#) Study Student Online Data Privacy
38. [SB 536](#) Students Know Before You Go
39. [SB 560](#) GDAC Amendments
40. [SB 561](#) Career and College Ready Graduates
41. [SB 597](#) Repeal References to ABCS
42. [SB 676](#) Autism Health Insurance Coverage
43. [SB 682](#) Modify Sunset Re: Contingent Audits
44. [SB 698](#) State IT/Utility-Based Cloud Computing

## **Relevant Bills on the Floor This Week:**

### **HB 660** Transition to Personalized Digital Learning

On Wednesday, the House passed HB 660 (112:6); it is now assigned to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations. As summarized last week, this bill would direct the SBE to expand the School Connectivity Initiative, establish a procurement service to acquire infrastructure, devices, content, etc., provide professional development, and establish a grant program for LEAs to support the development and sharing of digital learning models. It would direct the SBE to contract with the Friday Institute at NC State University to establish a separate North Carolina Digital Learning Initiative (NCDLI) with a director, staff, and advisory board. This Initiative would be responsible for the following:

1. Leveraging experts across the state to further the effective use of digital learning.
2. Working with state agencies to implement SBE's procurement service.
3. Coordinating experts to select the best digital learning content.
4. Developing a process for digital learning grants to LEAs.
5. Providing relevant professional development programs.
6. Developing capacities and providing resources to digital learning.
7. Directing DPI in management and disbursement of funds for this Initiative.

The NCDLI would report by January 1, 2016, and every year thereafter, to the SBE on its progress. There is no specific appropriation. There is only a provision stating that the bill is "subject to the availability of funds for these purposes," indicating that this legislation will be wrapped into the budget.

### **HB 661** Teacher Recruitment and Scholarships

On Wednesday, the House passed HB 661; it is now assigned to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. The bill seeks to create the new "North Carolina Competitive Teaching Scholarship Program" to be administered by the State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA), which would award scholarships of up to \$8,500 to at least 1,000 candidates each year who will teach for four years in either a hard-to-staff school or hard-to-staff position. The bill appropriates \$1,000,000 in 2016-2017 for the scholarships.

### **HB 662** NC Elevating Educators Act of 2015

On Wednesday, the House amended HB 662 on the floor; however, after vigorous debate, it was withdrawn and referred to the House Committee on Appropriations. This legislation would provide for a comprehensive multi-year program where LEAs would submit differentiated pay plans for new advanced teaching roles. The bill sponsor described the bill as "not a teacher pay bill" but rather a bill that begins a process for "how we pay teachers," noting that teachers are paid now in essentially the same way they were in the 19th century. Critics raised questions about how much the new program would cost. Estimates ranged from "a couple million bucks" to \$1.5 billion. Members pointed out that a host of education groups have fundamental issues with this bill. It will now go on to be debated in House Appropriations and, as such, is not subject to the crossover deadline.

### [HB 726](#) School Boards Can't Sue Counties

On Tuesday, the House Judiciary II Committee approved HB 726 and sent it to the House for a vote. However, the House voted the bill down (52:66). The bill would have repealed the existing statutory authority for local boards of education to file a lawsuit against boards of county commissioners to challenge the sufficiency of appropriated funds to a local school district.

### [HB 902](#) Transforming Principal Preparation

On Wednesday, the House passed HB 902, and it is now assigned to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operation. As summarized last week, the bill would establish a new competitive grant program administered by the State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA), through a cooperative agreement with a separate, unnamed, private nonprofit corporation to provide funds for the preparation and support of highly effective future principals. The bill seeks to transform the preparation of principals. For-profits, nonprofits, and institutions of higher education are all eligible to receive the competitive grants. The timeline set forth in the bill would have the SEAA issue a Request for Proposal for eligible nonprofits by September 1, 2015, with a decision on the selected nonprofit by January 1, 2016.

### [SB 333](#) Teacher Attrition Data

On Monday, the Senate amended and passed SB 333; it is now assigned to the House Committee on Education/K-12. The bill would add fields of data under G.S. 115C-12(22) for SBE's annual Report on the Teaching Profession (i.e., "Teacher Turnover Report"). It was amended to clarify that any new data to be collected under this bill would be reflected in the 2017 annual report using data from the 2016-2017 school year. The amendment also would define "hard-to-staff schools" as any school identified as low-performing in G.S. 115C-105.37. It would define a "hard-to-staff subject area" as being either of the following:

1. One defined by the United States Department of Education.
2. A subject area that has resulted in a long term vacancy of 16 months or more at a particular school in a local school administrative unit.

### [SB 560](#) GDAC Amendments

On Monday, the Senate passed SB 560; it is now assigned to the House Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations. As summarized last week, this bill would amend the newly created Government Data Analytics Center (GDAC) of 2013 and further recodify GDAC under a new statute: G.S. 147-33.77A. The bill would formally place GDAC in the Office of Information Technology Services. Among other things, GDAC could prevent the development of projects within a state agency that do not meet GDAC standards for business intelligence initiatives, and state agencies would be required to comply with certain data sharing provisions.

## **Relevant Bills in Committee This Week:**

### [HB 164](#) School Calendar Flexibility

On Wednesday, the House Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations amended and approved HB 164, and the House passed it. It is now assigned to the Senate Committee on

Ways and Means. With all the countless local calendar flexibility bills and the perennial question of whether the General Assembly will pass a statewide calendar flexibility bill that allows LEAs to start and end their school year when they see fit, the preliminary answer for this year came on Wednesday: “No.” However, the House vote on the amendment to repeal the mandatory start and end date under G.S. 115C-84.2(d) only had a 3-vote margin (56:59, amendment was defeated). Thus, HB 164 offers the following changes to the school calendar law:

1. Strikes the current “185 days” requirement and would only require 1,025 hours of instruction covering at least nine calendar months.
2. Adds that LEAs can include a varying number of instructional hours in instructional days occurring in different semesters, and may vary the number of days per instructional semester.
3. Allows an LEA with a fall semester ending before December 31 to administer exams before that date.

Currently, LEAs are permitted to do all of the above, so the bill does not appear to offer any greater calendar flexibility. There is also a potentially problematic pay provision: “If a local board adopts a school calendar of less than 185 days of instruction, teachers employed for a 10-month term who work or use annual leave or sick leave for the designated instructional days are deemed to have been employed the equivalent of 185 days of instruction and shall be compensated as if they had worked those days.” Perhaps the boldest step in the bill is a study by the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC) that will review LEAs that have successfully used calendar flexibility to hold semester exams prior to December 31.

#### [HB 238](#) Duty-Free Time/Lunch for Teachers

On Tuesday, the House Committee on Education/K-12 amended and approved HB 238, and the House passed it. It is now assigned to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations. Currently, all full-time assigned classroom teachers must be provided duty-free planning time during regular student contact hours with certain minimal criteria. This bill would add that teachers must also be provided duty-free lunch time. It would delete a provision that provides teachers with duty-free time only when appropriated for by the General Assembly. As with duty-free planning time under current law, principals cannot unfairly burden a teacher to give up his or her duty-free lunch time on an ongoing, regular basis without the consent of the teacher. The bill would also require the school improvement plan to include a plan for providing teachers with duty-free lunch time on a daily basis, or a plan with a goal of providing at least seventy-five minutes per week. This bill would apply beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.

#### [HB 248](#) Eliminate NC Final Exam

On Tuesday, the House Committee on Education/K-12 amended and approved HB 248, and the House passed it. It is now assigned to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations. The bill would direct the SBE to discontinue use of the NC Final Exam and the analysis of student work process to assess teachers' performance on Standard 6 of the NC Teacher Evaluation System. The SBE would be directed to adopt a policy to require that LEAs assess teachers' performance on Standard 6 using either (1) EOC and EOG assessments to

determine student growth for teachers who teach at least 60% of their time in an EOC or EOG subject, or (2) school-wide growth values for all other teachers. Within 60 days of this bill becoming law, DPI would be directed to request approval from the U.S. Department of Education (USED) to amend the state's flexibility waiver under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act to implement the above requirements. If this bill becomes law, it would only apply if the USED approves the requested amendment.

#### [HB 355](#) Evidence Passed Vehicle is a School Bus

On Monday, the House Judiciary II Committee amended and approved HB 355, and the House passed it. It is now assigned to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations. The bill would provide criteria establishing prima facie evidence that a vehicle was a school bus at the time it was appropriately stopped and passed by another vehicle in violation of the law. Beginning with offenses committed on or after October 1, 2015, this prima facie evidence would be established by the following:

1. A certified copy of a record from the DMV showing the vehicle was registered as a school bus at the time of the violation.
2. Testimony from the school bus driver, a passenger on the school bus, or the law enforcement officer investigating the violation.

#### [HB 484](#) Home Schoolers Participate in School Sports

On Tuesday, the House Committee on Education/K-12 approved HB 484, and it was referred to the House Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations. It has not yet passed the House. The bill would permit students who attend home schools to participate in interscholastic athletic activities, if certain criteria is met, beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. To participate, a home-schooled student must be a resident of a county with a population of 200,000 or less and could participate only at the school where he or she would otherwise be enrolled if in public school. A home-schooled student who has not met established academic eligibility requirements for athletic participation would be ineligible to participate until eligibility is met. A home-schooled student would be required to inform the public school of his/her intent to participate in athletics before the beginning date of the particular athletic season. Home-schooled students would be required to pay any fees or purchase any supplemental insurance for participation required of public school students. The principal of the school would make the final determination on whether to allow a student to participate. Students may not appeal the principal's final determination.

#### [HB 581](#) Computer Coding Course Elective

On Tuesday, the House Committee on Education/K-12 amended and approved HB 581, and the House passed it. It is now assigned to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations. The bill would direct the SBE to develop and identify academically rigorous courses in computer programming and coding that can be offered as electives at the middle or high school level beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.

#### [HB 587](#) School Flexibility Act

On Tuesday, the House Committee on Education/K-12 amended and approved HB 587, and the House further amended and passed it on Wednesday. It is now assigned to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. The bill would direct organizations such as the NC School



Boards Association, with support from DPI, to conduct at least one professional development workshop in each region of the state annually for superintendents and their designees, as follows:

1. To provide information on school reform models, particularly the “restart model” under G.S. 115C-105.37B(a)(2) that provides LEAs with flexibility similar to charter schools with the local board of education maintaining control of a school.
2. To provide information on budget flexibility for differentiated pay and other initiatives to improve student achievement.

Also, the bill would direct the SBE to report to JLEOC by November 15, 2015, with recommendations on (i) improving the teacher licensing process; (ii) efforts to automate the teacher licensing process; (iii) changes to the lateral entry process for teachers; (iv) whether to accept funds under Title II of ESEA; and (v) streamlining the teacher licensing process.

### [HB 673](#) Modify Read to Achieve

On Tuesday, the House Committee on Education/K-12 amended and approved HB 673, and the House unanimously passed it. It is now assigned to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. The bill would make various changes to *Read to Achieve* beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, as follows:

- Establish September 15th as the annual deadline for the SBE to complete the required review of alternative assessments, including those submitted by LEAs under G.S. 115C-83.3(2).
- Change the “student reading portfolio” provision as follows: “Student reading portfolio” means a compilation of independently produced student work selected by the student's teacher, beginning during the first half of the school year, and signed by the teacher and principal, as an accurate picture of the student's reading ~~ability~~proficiency. ~~The student reading portfolio shall include an organized collection of evidence of the student's mastery of the State's reading standards that are assessed by the State-approved standardized test of reading comprehension administered to third grade students.~~reading proficiency. A single piece of evidence may be used to show mastery of reading proficiency for up to two standards. For each benchmark, reading standard, there shall be three-two examples of student workwork, gathered over the course of the school year, demonstrating mastery by a grade of seventy percent (70%) or above the student's reading proficiency. If a student correctly responds to eighty percent (80%) of the comprehension questions about one reading passage as used as an initial work sample, then that one work sample shall suffice to demonstrate student reading proficiency on the standards covered in that sample. A student reading portfolio shall only be compiled with students when it is determined that administration of a standardized test of reading comprehension would likely not yield positive findings of a student's reading proficiency.”
- Clarifies that the teacher of record in any of grades K-3 cannot be prohibited from administering *Read to Achieve* assessments to his/her own students.

- Clarifies that the student reading portfolio process is limited only to a student deemed appropriate by the student's principal, after consulting with the teacher and the student's parents, and shall discontinue administration of the portfolio passages whenever a student is not demonstrating reading proficiency.
- If a parent or guardian of a student that is not demonstrating reading proficiency does not enroll the student in a reading camp, the parent would be required to notify the school of any alternative reading interventions or instructional supports being provided to the student.
- An otherwise retained student who attends a reading camp continuously for at least 64 hours of instructional time would be placed in a transitional third and fourth grade class combination.
- Principals would be required to provide at least one information session within the first 30 days of school regarding the requirement for reading proficiency.

#### [HB 687](#) Public Schools/Testing Schedule

On Tuesday, the House Committee on Education/K-12 amended and approved HB 687, and the House passed it. It is now assigned to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. Current law requires all annual state assessments and final exams for courses to be administered within the final 10 instructional days of the school year for year-long courses and within the final five instructional days of the semester for semester courses. The bill would allow LEAs to apply to the SBE at least 60 days prior to the date of scheduled assessments or final exams for an extension of the testing schedule for up to the final 20 instructional days of the school year for year-long courses and up to the final 15 instructional days of the semester for semester-long courses. Further, no teacher of record would be prohibited from administering tests to his/her students, except when testing modifications are necessary. These changes would apply beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.

#### [HB 803](#) School Performance Scores

On Tuesday, the House Committee on Education/K-12 approved HB 803, and the House passed it on Wednesday. It is now assigned to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. The bill would change the distribution of achievement and growth in school performance grades from 80% achievement and 20% growth, as current law provides, to 50% achievement and 50% growth. However, it would allow the current 15-point scale to revert to a 10-point scale, which will automatically happen if the scale is not changed during this legislative session.

#### [SB 95](#) Performance-Based RIF/School Policy

On Tuesday, the Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education approved SB 95, and the Senate passed it on Wednesday. It is now assigned to the House Committee on Rules, Calendar and Operations. The bill would direct local boards of education to adopt specific criteria in their policies for implementing a reduction in force. In determining which positions would be subject to such a reduction, LEAs would be required to consider: (1) structural and organizational considerations, and (2) work performance and teacher evaluations.

### [SB 97](#) State Advisory Council on Indian Education

On Tuesday, the Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education approved SB 97, and the Senate passed it on Wednesday. It is now assigned to the House Committee on Rules, Calendar and Operations. The bill would make changes to the composition of the State Advisory Council on Indian Education (SACIE), as follows:

- Directs the UNC System Board of Governors and the State Board of Community Colleges to each appoint an American Indian from higher education, preferably a faculty member.
- Reduces the number of American Indian parents from eight to five. Requires appointed parent members to be those of students enrolled in the K-12 public schools, including charter schools.
- Increases the number of American Indian K-12 public school educators from two to five, and requires one member to be a Title VII director or coordinator, to be appointed by the SBE from a list of recommendations submitted by the North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs.

SB 97 would also require that members of SACIE be broadly representative of North Carolina Indian tribes and organizations, North Carolina State-recognized tribes and organizations, and tribes recognized by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs. Current SACIE members would serve the remainder of their terms, and as vacancies occur new members would be appointed in accordance with the above changes.

### [SB 211](#) Damages for Late Payment of Monies/Charters

On Tuesday, the Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education approved SB 211, and the Senate passed it on Wednesday. It is now assigned to the House Committee on Rules, Calendar and Operations. The bill would provide for damages when funds are not transferred from an LEA to a charter school in accordance with G.S. 115C-218.105. If legal action is taken to recover funds, the courts would be directed to award the prevailing party of such legal action liquidated damages equal to 5% of the monies that should have been transferred under G.S. 115C-218.105(c) as compensation for administrative expenses incurred due to unavailability of funds.

### [SB 330](#) Change Orders on School Construction Projects

On Tuesday, the Senate Committee on Finance further amended and approved SB 330, and the Senate amended and passed it on Wednesday. The bill is now assigned to the House Committee on Rules, Calendar and Operations. The bill would require change orders involving school construction contracts to be submitted by the architect to the superintendent and approved by the local board of education, unless a policy is adopted that complies with requirements set forth in this bill. The bill sets forth a new process for the approval of change orders, whether by the local board, the board chair, the superintendent, or the superintendent's designee. The superintendent's authority to unilaterally approve change orders would be limited, as follows:

- An amount of up to \$100,000 in a LEA that has had an average of at least \$50 million of school construction projects over the previous five years.



- An amount of up \$25,000 in a LEA that has had an average of less than \$50 million of school construction projects over the previous five years.

#### [SB 343](#) Student Assault on Teacher/Felony Offense

On Tuesday, the Senate Judiciary II Committee further amended and approved SB 343, and the Senate amended and passed it on Wednesday. It is now assigned to the House Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations. Previously, the bill would have created a new Class I felony for student assault on a school employee if certain criteria were met. The bill was amended to provide that a student convicted of a first offense is guilty of a Class A1 misdemeanor, and a conviction of a second offense would be a Class H felony. As such, the penalty was lessened for a first offense and heightened for a second.

#### [SB 456](#) Charter School Modifications

On Tuesday, the Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education amended and approved SB 456, and the Senate further amended and passed it on Wednesday. It is now assigned to the House Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations. This bill is the major charter school legislation of the Session. It is expected to undergo additional changes in the House and an eventual conference committee. As amended, the bill would make various changes to charter school laws, as follows:

- Direct the SBE to submit all proposed rules and other guidance related to charter schools to the Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) and give CSAB 45 days to provide written comments and recommendations. The SBE would be forbidden from adopting any proposed rules until a response is received from the CSAB or until the 45 days has expired.
- Charter school boards of directors would be allowed to include members who are not residents of the state, but the SBE would be specifically permitted to require that a majority of a charter board's members be in-state residents. This provision conflicts with a recently enacted SBE policy requiring all members of charter school boards to be in-state residents.
- Increase the minimum number of students that a charter school must have from 65 to 80. Special circumstances that justify having a lower number would still be permitted as in current law.
- Clarify that the SBE and CSAB shall evaluate charter school applications based on the content and substance of the applications and that, "format issues with an application shall not impact the substantive review of the content of an application." The SBE and CSAB would be directed to provide timely notification of any format issues or incomplete information and give at least five business days for the applicant to correct those issues. Also, the bill would provide each applicant with at least 10 minutes to address the CSAB immediately prior to any final vote on an application.
- The SBE would be required to renew charters for 10 years if requested unless there are financial, academic, or legal problems as set forth in G.S. 115C-218.5(d).
- The SBE would be required to grant approval for a charter school to increase its enrollment during its second year of operation and annually thereafter by up to 20% of the previous year's enrollment, unless one of the following applies:

- The school has been notified in the previous year of failure to meet student performance requirements or failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management.
  - The school is not in compliance with state law, federal law, the school's own bylaws, or provisions of its charter.
- Charter school boards of directors would be required to adopt a conflict of interest and anti-nepotism policy that includes, at a minimum, the requirements of Chapter 55A of the General Statutes related to conflicts of interest. Also, the policy must require that before an immediate family member of any board member or supervisor is hired or contracted with, the proposed employment must be disclosed and approved by the charter's board in a duly called open session meeting. The burden of disclosure would be on the applicable board member or supervisory employee.
- Local boards of education would also be required to adopt a conflict of interest and anti-nepotism policy. The policy must require that before an immediate family member of any board of education member or central office staff administrator (including directors, supervisors, specialists, staff officers, assistant superintendents, area superintendents, superintendents, or principals) is hired or contracted with, the proposed employment must be disclosed and approved by the local board in a duly called open session meeting. The burden of disclosure would be on the applicable board member or central office staff administrator.
- LEAs would be required to share with charter schools certain funds that are now in Fund 8, as follows:
  1. Sales tax revenues distributed through the ad valorem method.
  2. Local sales tax refunds.
  3. Gifts and grants, unless the source requires that it be in a separate fund.
  4. Trust funds.
- By September 15, 2015, based on recommendations of the CSAB, the SBE would be directed to amend the process and rules for replication of high-quality charter schools to authorize consideration for fast-track replication of a charter application from an applying board of directors that agrees to contract with an EMO or CMO currently operating a charter school(s) in the state, regardless of whether the board of directors has previously contracted with that EMO or CMO. The SBE would be directed to report to JLEOC by November 15, 2015, on any changes it makes.

### [SB 503](#) Sex Offense with Student/Charter Schools

On Tuesday, the Senate Judiciary II Committee approved SB 503, and the Senate passed it on Wednesday. The bill is now assigned to the House Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations. The bill would clarify that for the crimes of “taking indecent liberties with a student” and “intercourse and sexual offenses with a student,” the definition of “school personnel” would additionally include employees or volunteers of charter schools and nonpublic schools.

#### [SB 524](#) Founding Principles/Graduation Requirement

On Tuesday, the Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education approved SB 524, and the Senate passed it on Wednesday. The bill is now assigned to the House Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations. The bill would amend the Founding Principles Act beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. It would direct the SBE, rather than local boards of education, to require the teaching of a semester course that includes instruction in the Founding Principles of the United States of America during the high school years, and removes "American History I – The Founding Principles" as the statutorily-named course to fulfill this requirement. The bill would add the following additional Founding Principles to be taught:

1. Constitutional limitations on government power to tax and spend and prompt payment of public debt.
2. Money with intrinsic value.
3. Strong defense and supremacy of civil authority over military.
4. Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none.
5. Eternal vigilance by "We the People."

#### [SB 561](#) Career and College Ready Graduates

On Tuesday, the Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education amended and approved SB 561, and the Senate passed it on Wednesday. The bill is now assigned to the House Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations. It would direct the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC), in consultation with the SBE, to develop a program for implementation in the 2016-2017 school year that introduces the college developmental mathematics and developmental reading and English curriculums to high school seniors and provides opportunities for college remediation graduation through cooperation with community college partners based on certain specified requirements. The SBCC and SBE would report on progress of statewide implementation of the program to JLEOC by January 15, 2016.

#### [SB 597](#) Repeal references to ABCs (formerly Education Statutes Revision)

On Tuesday, the Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education amended and approved SB 597, and the Senate passed it on Wednesday. The bill is now assigned to the House Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations. It was amended from its original 14-page statutory cleanup version to a one-and-a-half page repeal of the state's outdated ABCs program that is still referenced under G.S. 115C.

#### **Other Relevant Bills with Action This Week:**

##### [HB 364](#) Clarify Laws on Executive Orders and Appointments (Lewis)

- Signed by Governor; SL 2015-9

##### [HB 396](#) Community College Innovative Pilot Program (Tine, Bryan, Horn, Waddell)

- Favorable report from the House Committee on Education – Community Colleges
- Re-referred to the House Committee on Appropriations

- [HB 484](#) ([HB 485](#)) Home Schoolers Participate in School Sports (Cleveland, Dobson, McElraft, Yarborough)
- Withdrawn from the House Committee on Education – K-12
  - Re-referred to the Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House
- [HB 756](#) Financial/Life Skills Community College Course (Queens, Reives, Cotham, Ager)
- Favorable report from House Committee on Education – Community Colleges
  - Re-referred to the Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House
- [HB 760](#) Regulatory Reform Act of 2015 (Millis, J. Bell, Riddell)
- Passed 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading in the House on Tuesday, April 28
  - Placed on House calendar for May 5
- [HB 768](#) Heath Stroke Prevention/Student Athletes (Richardson)
- Withdrawn from the House Committee on Education – K-12
  - Re-referred to the Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House
- [SB 298](#) ([HB 536](#)) School Bus Cameras/Civil Penalties (Alexander, McInnis)
- Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary II, if favorable, Finance

**Meetings May 4 - 7: TBD**

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